

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A system for licensing external processes on a computer comprising:
2 an electronic license that identifies one or more software commands for
3 registration;
4 an interface that registers the identified software commands; and
5 a command processor that executes the identified and registered software
6 commands.
- 1 2. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the computer comprises a proxy cache
2 server.
- 1 3. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the proxy cache server is part of a
2 proxy cache server cluster that comprises a plurality of proxy cache servers
3 interconnected over a network
- 1 4. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the electronic license further comprises
2 one or more fields identifying a server version, the server version defining server models
3 on which that the electronic license is valid.
- 1 5. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the electronic license includes one or
2 more fields identifying a license expiration date, the license expiration date defining a
3 period of time that the electronic license will allow access.
- 1 6. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the electronic license includes one or
2 more fields identifying one or more hardware serial numbers, the hardware serial
3 numbers corresponding to one or more computers on which the license is valid.
- 1 7. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the command includes means for
2 restricting usage of predetermined hardware resources on the computer based upon the
3 electronic license.

1 14. The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein the software commands-to-register
2 field further includes means for identifying exclusion of a predetermined software
3 command from the software commands that share the root software command so as to
4 cause the interface to reject registration of the predetermined software command that is
5 excluded.

1 15. A method for licensing external processes on a server comprising the steps of:
2 generating an electronic license that includes a plurality of software command
3 directives for accepting or rejecting registration, by one or more external processes, of
4 software commands; and
5 registering software commands based upon the software command directives; and
6 executing the registered commands.

1 16. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of includes directing the one
2 or more external processes to only use a set of licensed hardware resources, the set of
3 licensed hardware resources being defined by one or more fields in the electronic license.

1 17. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes
2 generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade defining a set of additional commands
3 for registration that are not part of software commands registered in conjunction with one
4 or more prior licenses.

1 18. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes
2 generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade describing additional hardware
3 resources licensed for use by the one or more external processes that are not part of
4 hardware resources licensed for use by prior licenses.

1 19. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes
2 generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade describing additional hardware
3 resources licensed for use by the one or more external processes that add further
4 capabilities to hardware resources licensed for use by prior licenses.

1 20. The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising either one of (a) installing
2 the electronic license in the server prior to shipment of the server to an end-user of the
3 server and (b) providing the electronic license to the end-user on a removable media for
4 installation in the server after the shipment of the server to the end-user.

1 21. The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising installing the electronic
2 license in the server in an over-the-wire process including (a) digitally signing the
3 electronic license by a vendor, (b) transmitting the digitally signed electronic license over
4 a communications network from the vendor to the server, (c) validating the digitally
5 signed electronic license by the server and (d) installing the validated electronic license in
6 the server.

1 22. A computer-readable medium including program instructions executing on a
2 computer for licensing external processes on a server, the program instructions
3 performing the steps of:
4 generating an electronic license that identifies one or more software commands
5 for registration;
6 registering, with an interface, the identified software commands; and
7 executing, with a command processor, the identified and registered software
8 commands.